

THE GRANGE NEWSLETTER

ISSUE 51

June, 1992

A Word From Our Chairman

By now, all of you will have heard the distressing news of the closure of the AGO from July 4, to January 24, 1993. We are all upset that Peggy Eades is included in the lay-off, but have been assured that she will be recalled in January. Equally sad, is the permanent loss of Ruth Keene, whose knowledge of pioneer life has enriched the experience of so many volunteers and visitors. Union rules forbid Ruth access to the kitchen as a volunteer but she will be welcomed into our fold as a Monday volunteer.

There will be a special meeting of The Grange executive committee on Monday, August 17 at 1:00 pm., in The Grange library. The meeting has been requested by members of the executive to plan our fall and winter activities. The Grange will not be closed to volunteers and any day that wants to gather and study can as long as you tell me. When entering the Gallery you MUST wear your I.D. badge, go directly to the security desk in Weston Hall, and give your name. You may have a short wait in order for the house to be 'accessed'. The security will tell you how to enter The Grange each time - generally speaking you should expect to enter via the lower level.

All Grange volunteers should expect to be recalled on Thursday, October 1, 1992. At that time we will recommence our regular 12 - 4:00 pm shifts. The reason is that we must be prepared for the January opening with new volunteers trained, slide lectures upgraded, even though the Toronto Board of Education enthusiastically approved our content last year.

Also, we have to study how to cope with the opening crowds. We will be having an enrichment series on the social and political history of Upper Canada and our wonderful Luncheon Lecture series, which you can book through the Volunteer Office (ext. 263).

We will need volunteers to help at the 4 luncheon/lectures in October and November, to cook and serve. Please call Pleasance Crawford at 922-7997, or myself. I will often be at The Grange but will be away from July 18 - August 4.

The Executive and the Gallery has approved the plan to apply to the City of Toronto to raffle a Candlelight Dinner at The Grange for 22 people. Second prize is a doll made by Dorothy Brown, and third, is a luncheon/lecture series. We will ask all volunteers to sell tickets from October to June, and will issue each of you two books of 5 tickets. The price is to be \$10 a ticket and is the most major fund-raising we have ever asked you to participate in. I hope you will all compete for the 'champion sales person award'.

So, stay in touch, rally round and we will sail through this difficult time.

Diana Weatherall

THE GRANGE ANNUAL MEETING

William James, the American philosopher, said, "The deepest principle of human nature is the craving to be appreciated." Whoever they are, people want to do things well, and to know that their efforts are appreciated. The Grange annual meeting, held this year on May 7, is a way of recognizing and applauding the everyday work of everyone associated with the house, as well as reporting on the activities of the members of The Grange Executive Committee. It is also the only event of the year when the Grangers from all the different days can meet one another.

This year, because of a last minute decision to close the AGO on Mondays throughout May, there had to be a late change in the date for the meeting, and attendance was down. Nevertheless, for those who were there, it was, as usual, a successful and pleasureable occasion. AGO Director, Dr. Glenn Lowry, was unable to attend as he was out of town. In his place, he sent along Alberta Nokes, Project Manager, Stage III Opening, who gave us a spirited and informative preview of the great things to come in January.

THE GRANGE VOLUNTEER COMMITTEE EXECUTIVE 1992 - 1993

| | |
|------------------------|---|
| CHAIRMAN | Diana Weatherall |
| COSTUMES | Jean Gray |
| * EDUCATION | Florence Watts |
| FINANCE | Mary J. De Merindol |
| FLOWERS | Mary Aziz |
| GRANGE HOUSEKEEPING | Virginia Smith |
| KETTLEDRUM | Nancy Lofft |
| LIBRARY | |
| * PROGRAM | Pleasance Crawford |
| * PUBLICATIONS | Elizabeth Chish |
| ○ RESEARCH | Avril Stringer |
| SLIDE LIBRARY | Anne Mills |
| * SPECIAL EVENTS | Elaine Freedman |
| STAFFING | Marguerite Larkin |
| * VOLUNTEER TRAINING | Helvi Hunter |
| MEMBERS AT LARGE | Ann O'Brian (Advisor to the Executive) Emmy Lind (House Flowers) |
| VICE-CHAIR & PUBLICITY | Connie Masters |

* change from last year's committee
○ new position

NEW FACES AT THE GRANGE

Monday: Paul Wilson
Tuesday: Evelyn Clark, Stephanie Vittas
Wednesday (night): Tammy Dennis
Thursday: Richard Diemer
Friday: Renata Guerchon

A warm welcome to these new volunteers. We hope they will find pleasure and satisfaction in their work at The Grange.

WE HATE TO SEE YOU GO

Friday: Anne Harker
Sunday: Joyce Wye

Both Anne and Joyce are leaving Canada to live in England.

Congratulations and our best wishes to Francine Dion-Holden on the birth of a son. Guess it will be a while before you will be free again on Wednesday evenings - eh Francine!

SICK LIST

We wish a speedy recovery to Anne Mills (Slide Library), Heather Kalil (Wednesday) and Ruth Keene (the One and Only).

We are delighted to report that Wednesday's Joe Erdle, who suffered a severe stroke two years ago, is up and about again. He has even managed to put in some time in The Grange. It just goes to show that you can't keep a good man down!

ANNE HOPE-BROWN GETS WHAT SHE DESERVES

Anne Hope-Brown (Tuesday) has given so much of her time to The Grange, especially when she held the post of Staffing Chairman, that it is surprising she has any time left for other volunteer activities, but as the saying goes "If you want anything done, ask a busy person". For over ten years Anne has also been a volunteer at the ROM working on special exhibitions, in the Discovery Room with the children, re-organizing files for the Botany Department, and lately with the new owl exhibit. Last May, at an impressive reception at Roy Thomson Hall, attended by assorted ministers of communication, culture and citizenship, Anne, along with four other ROM volunteers, and volunteers from other heritage and service organizations, was honoured with a long-service pin and a scroll. Congratulations, Anne!

CRAIG JONES VISITS GRANGE, DECLares IT A WINNER

Craig Jones is the young (14) student who won a 1991 March Break art competition sponsored by the Toronto Sun. The prize - a tour of the AGO and lunch at the restaurant for himself and guests of his choosing. He invited all his closest relations - seemed to come from a very large family! The group was escorted by Alison Krupa, The Grange's good friend in Marketing, first around the Gallery, and then on a very successful tour of the house. We have been advised that they were coming, so we were at our entertaining best. Then it was on to a special lunch at the AGO restaurant, and when it was over, what was the Jones family's next request - more time in The Grange!

GRANGE ANNUAL EXPEDITION - THE DON VALLEY AND ITS LEGACY

It was that time again, the merry month of May when Grangers take to the road on the annual expedition of discovery and exploration of things and places historical. This year, our expedition was a pot-pourri of several interesting locations within the borders of Metro Toronto, instead of the customary out-of-town trip.

By 9:00 a.m. on Monday, May 11, everyone was aboard our bus and eager for departure. Our first stop was the Todmorden Mills Historical Museum, where we explored the history of the Don Valley and the Taylor family, who founded the Don Valley Brick Works. We next visited "Beechwood", one of the Taylor homes, built in 1840, and the oldest house in East York. Here we were joined by John Rideout of the East York Historical Association, who told us about the house and its history.

Then we were off to St. James' Cemetery and the Chapel of St. James-the-Less, in pursuit of the Boultons. The tomb stone of Harriette and Goldwin Smith was discovered, but where was D'Arcy, both Sr. and Jr., and William Henry?

The next stop was for a quick look at the exterior of "Drumsnab", one of Toronto's oldest houses, and its beautiful garden.

Then it was time for lunch - and what a lunch! Grange Chairman, Diana Weatherall, threw open her charming house to the hungry travellers, and provided them with a simply splendid repast. A very heartfelt vote of thanks to Diana from everyone present!

After lunch yet another treat awaited us. Anthony Adamson, architect and historian (and married to a Boulton descendant), very kindly allowed The Grangers to tour his house, Rose Cottage, and its beautiful garden.

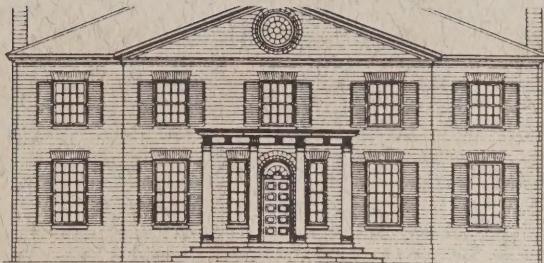
Then it was back on the bus for a return to the subway, and our annual expedition was over for another year. Florence Watts had done it again - another superbly organized annual Grange outing.

Footnote: For anyone interested in learning more about the Don Valley, the following books are highly recommended:

Don Valley Legacy - Ann Guthrie (Boston Mills Press 1986)
Remembering the Don - Charles Sauriol (Consolidated Amethyst Publications 1981)
Tales of the Don - Charles Sauriol (Natural Heritage/Natural History Inc. 1984)

ROMANCE RETURNS TO THE GRANGE

For only the second time in a century, since the Boultons locked the door and departed into history, a wedding will be celebrated in The Grange. Ken Yurchuk, Manager of Building Services at the AGO, and his bride-to-be, had a romantic dream of an old-fashioned wedding - and The Grange will be helping them to make it come true. On Saturday, October 3, the bride will be piped through the front door and up the staircase where the ceremony will take place. The reception follows in the Music Room where a luscious wedding repast, prepared by the Kettledrum culinary magicians, will await the guests. It should be an affair to remember.



THE GRANGE FALL LUNCHEON LECTURES

"HERE WE WILL BUILD A GREAT CITY"

(Lieut. Gov. Simcoe)

Place: The Grange Music Room

Time: 11:00 am.

Tickets: AGO Members - \$14.00 each - \$52.00 for series (includes lunch)
Non-members - \$16.00 each - \$60.00 for series (includes lunch)

A flourish of trumpets, a drum roll or two - the celebration begins! Come and join The Grange in marking the 200th anniversary of the founding of York/Toronto. We are having four luncheon lectures exploring our beginnings, and paying tribute to our founding citizens: the English, Scots, Irish and United Empire Loyalists. They came to John Graves Simcoe's little colonial garrison town and, surviving invasion, fire, epidemics, internal dissension and external danger, laid the foundations on which the modern Toronto was built. Hats off to York/Toronto and our intrepid forefathers (and mothers) on this 200th birthday!

Our speakers are some of the city's most distinguished historians and writers.

October 8 Planting Firm Britannia's Flag - The English.
Professor J.M. Careless
Professor Emeritus, History Dept.,
Victoria College, University of Toronto.

October 22 Brains, Brawn and Belligerence - The Scots
Chris Raible.
Curator, Mackenzie House.
Member, Toronto Historical Board

November 5 His Majesty's Yankees - The United Empire Loyalists
Mary Beacock Fryer,
author "Elizabeth Postuma Simcoe 1762-1850"

November 19 Myth vs. Reality - The Irish
Professor Cecil Houston
History Dept. Erindale College
University of Toronto
author "Irish Immigration & Canadian Settlement".

Phone: AGO 977-0414 ext. 263 to order tickets

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